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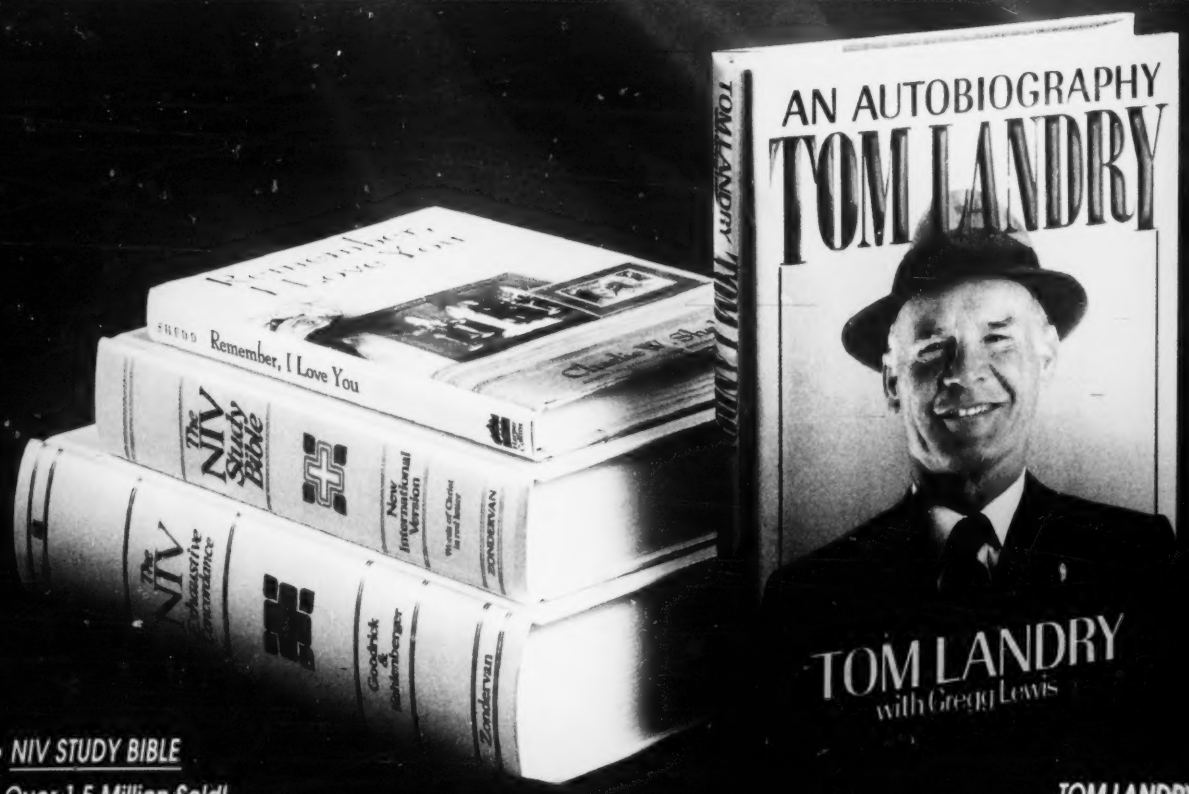

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FEATURES

Religious Books 1990

The Rise of Thomas Nelson 24
The top Bible publisher sees itself as a trade house with a religious bent *By Bob Summer*

Magnifying the Lord 30
Helpful advice on setting up a large-print religious department *By Eve Roshevsky Drogin*

On Making Saints 34
Newsweek's religion editor describes the process and the costs *By William Griffin*

A Talk with Charles Swindoll 38
The popular evangelist's well-researched sermons are the inspiration for many of his bestselling books *By William Griffin*

Fall Religious Books 44
Compiled by William Griffin

A Special Report: Selling the Bible S3

DEPARTMENTS

NEWS OF THE WEEK 12
Robert Rodale Dies in Moscow Car Accident
Esposito to Leave Random House
Brack Named Head of Time Warner Publishing Unit
House Bill Limiting RICO Use in Anti-Obscenity Cases Gains
Author Cancels Book Promotions After Receiving Threats
Two Book Drives for Troops Stationed in Saudi Arabia
Book Price Averages, 1989

TRADE NEWS 63
Doubleday Signs Unprecedented 10-Year Deal with *Fit for Life* Team
Norton Explores Health & Welfare of the Homeless

BOOKSELLING 65
Upper Midwest Booksellers 10th annual meeting

AUDIO/VIDEO PLUS 68
Kitty Dukakis's Story On Tape from S & S Audio
Audio Reviews
Audio Bestsellers

PW INTERVIEWS 81
James Welch

FORECASTS 84
Nonfiction 84
Fiction 90
Paperbacks 95

COLUMNS

Highlights 7
Calendar 11
People 22
Paperback Bestsellers 50
Hardcover Bestsellers 51
My Say: *Malcolm Boyd* 62
Rights 78
International Front 79
Talk of the Trade 80
Weekly Exchange 100
Religious Bestsellers 104

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Congress Moves to Compel Wider Use Of Acid-Free Paper

The federal government is on the verge of taking a step that could lead to greater use of nonacidic paper, which the book publishing community has been under pressure to use for the past several years.

Both houses of Congress have passed a resolution establishing as formal policy "that federal records, books, and publications of enduring value be produced on acid-free permanent papers." Since the federal government alone purchases more than 2% of the nation's consumption of printing and writing paper, the policy was expected to lead to a greater swing toward the production of acid-free papers, thus making them cheaper, or at least more readily available.

In addition to establishing a federal paper-use policy, the resolution also asks that "American publishers use acid-free permanent papers for publications of enduring value, in voluntary compliance with the American National Standard, and note the use of such paper on books, in advertisements, catalogs and standard bibliographic listings."

In asking his colleagues in the House of Representatives to approve the measure, Rep. Robert Wise (D., W.Va.) noted that "acid-free paper is now widely available at the same price as acidic paper."

Wise said the National Archives and other government institutions are spending millions of dollars transferring documents as recent as those from the World War II period into other media so that they can be preserved. Acidic papers have been in use since before the turn of the century.

After the House acted, by voice vote, the resolution was returned to the Senate to clear up a technicality. The Senate, which already had approved the resolution, was expected to send it on to President Bush for his signature.

—H. F.

Deficit Negotiations Jeopardize Nonprofit Mail Subsidy

The U.S. Senate passed and returned to the House of Representatives a bill that would extend the federal subsidy for nonprofit mail, including that to and from libraries, for at least another year.

The two bodies had less than a month, however, to iron out differences between the two bodies and return them to the floor of each house for final approval. The work also could be jeopardized by budget negotiations that could wipe out the subsidy altogether.

Although the differences in the bills were on several issues other than postal rates, the amount of "revenue forgone" was in dispute.

At mid-summer, the House passed a bill that would provide $484.6 million to cover the subsidized rates, considered the amount needed to maintain current special fourth-class rates. The Senate cut that amount to $470.6 million. A straight compromise by conferees named by both sides to work out differences would give the revenue forgone fund $477.1 million, but this year other matters are interferring.

In addition to the budget agreement that was outstanding as the Senate acted, the current rates would be maintained only until the general U.S. Postal Service increase goes into effect next February, as expected.

If Congress fails to resolve the budget crunch, the cost of the library rate could rise by nearly 40% effective Oct. 1. HOWARD FIELDS

Book Price Averages, 1989

Small rises and slight declines mark a generally stable trend in volume pricing last year

By Chandler B. Grannis

Although sufficient statistics are not yet available for a complete and "final" report, by subject categories, on the numbers of titles published in 1989 in the U.S., credible price averages for the vast majority of the year's books have been compiled and are presented here (see opposite page and p18).

As readers know, a preliminary report on a year's titles and prices is annually given in a March issue of *PW*, using figures based primarily on data provided to R. R. Bowker by the Library of Congress. Further work is done for about six months, bringing in data on several thousand more books of the year in question and making possible a "final" report, published by *PW* in a late summer issue.

Figures Delayed

The bibliographical statistics are compiled in Bowker's data services division for the American Book Publishing Record (BPR), weekly and cumulative, and the figures are produced especially for *PW* and the *Bowker Annual (Library and Book Trade Almanac)* by BPR managing editor Beverly Lamar. This year some of the data in many entries, including L.C. and Dewey subject classification, have been delayed; *PW* understands that "final" 1989 title counts may be provided by the end of 1990. The situation came about because of the implementation of a preliminary cataloguing program at the L.C., according to Lamar.

One table in the reports given here, mass market paperbacks, Table B, is derived not from the BPR database but from the entries submitted for listing in Bowker's *Paperbound Books in Print*, so the title figure used here in Table B is close to "final" for 1989.

Table A, hardcover books in all price levels, shows a small increase in the overall per-volume prices. Fiction was up about $1. Strong increases appeared in art, travel, language, law and history.

Table A-1, hardcover volumes omitting those priced at $81 or over, showed a trifling decline in the overall average price with sharp drops for medical and technical volumes and measurable increases in sports and education.

Mass market prices were also down a bit overall. In trade paperbacks, Table C, the average fiction price dipped, but overall the average was up $2.11 per volume.

In Table D, *PW*'s own informal hand-count of certain books advertised in the 1990 Fall Announcement issue (Aug. 10) shows a median price rise of $1, to $19.95 in novels; a $5 jump in the median, to $24.95, in biographical volumes; and a $2.50 rise, to $25 median, in history.

Each of the 23 standard subject groups used here represents one or more specific Dewey Decimal Classification numbers, as follows:

Agriculture, 630-639, 712-719; Art, 700-711, 720-779; Biography, 920-929, B; Business, 650-659; Education, 370-379; Fiction; General Works, 000-099; History, 900-909, 930-999; Home Economics, 640-649; Juveniles; Language, 400-499; Law, 340-349; Literature, 800-810, 813-820, 823-899; Medicine, 610-619; Music, 780-789; Philosophy, Psychology, 100-199; Poetry, Drama, 811, 812, 821, 822; Religion, 200-299; Science, 500-599; Sociology, Economics, 300-339, 350-369, 380-399; Sports, Recreation, 790-799; Technology, 600-609, 620-629, 660-699; Travel, 910-919.

TABLE A

HARDCOVER AVERAGE PER-VOLUME PRICES

CATEGORY	1977 PRICES	1987 FINAL VOLS.	1987 FINAL PRICES	1988 FINAL VOLS.	1988 FINAL PRICES	1989 (PARTIAL) VOLS.	1989 (PARTIAL) $ TOTAL	1989 (PARTIAL) PRICES
Agriculture	$16.24	423	$46.24	438	$49.36	369	$18,886.72	$51.05
Art	21.24	1,004	37.71	958	39.96	904	45,621.96	50.47
Biography	15.34	1,542	25.04	1,538	25.99	4,430	38,809.07	27.14
Business	18.00	1,032	33.31	1,120	37.51	889	33,463.16	37.64
Education	12.95	669	31.58	620	33.55	513	19,222.03	37.47
Fiction	10.09	2,499	18.19	2,258	17.63	2,129	39,669.80	18.63
General Works	30.99	1,623	43.81	1,448	50.35	1,202	59,431.88	49.44
History	17.12	1,954	31.74	1,992	33.44	1,658	62,726.81	37.83
Home Economics	11.16	558	20.13	474	21.38	435	9,639.85	22.16
Juveniles	6.65	3,162	11.48	3,603	11.79	3,981	48,508.79	12.19
Language	14.96	361	37.80	339	40.42	282	13,411.36	47.56
Law	25.04	1,097	49.65	957	50.85	735	43,249.06	58.84
Literature	15.78	1,537	28.70	1,465	30.85	1,340	43,583.31	31.78
Medicine	24.00	3,065	57.68	2,914	66.59	2,342	163,175.38	69.67
Music	20.13	224	35.82	217	36.95	248	10,299.18	41.53
Philosophy, Psychology	14.43	1,090	33.32	1,120	34.75	1,111	40,211.49	36.19
Poetry, Drama	13.63	699	28.59	649	28.02	545	16,653.02	30.56
Religion	12.26	1,226	24.51	1,163	26.73	1,019	28,220.14	27.69
Science	24.88	2,815	62.16	2,904	66.91	2,249	154,162.00	68.55
Sociology, Economics	29.88	5,393	34.38	5,430	37.25	4,728	194,074,34	41.05
Sports, Recreation	12.28	586	23.96	518	27.33	457	13,560.61	29.67
Technology	23.61	1,988	60.24	1,992	65.26	1,836	129,905.16	70.75
Travel	18.44	227	28.07	215	26.22	226	7,076.41	31.31
Total	$19.22	34,774	$36.28	34,332	$39.00	30,628	$1,232,511.38	$40.24

TABLE A-1

HARDCOVER AVERAGE PER-VOLUME PRICES—LESS THAN $81

CATEGORY	1986 PRICES	1987 FINAL VOLS.	1987 FINAL PRICES	1988 FINAL VOLS.	1988 FINAL PRICES	1989 (PARTIAL) VOLS.	1989 (PARTIAL) $ TOTAL	1989 (PARTIAL) PRICES
Agriculture	$31.89	363	$32.44	351	$32.43	298	$10,147.67	$34.05
Art	31.63	959	33.07	905	33.85	852	32,138.16	37.73
Biography	21.66	1,514	22.75	1,510	23.81	1,393	33,937.57	24.36
Business	28.44	1,007	30.48	1,072	32.91	853	38,786.31	33.79
Education	25.75	654	29.37	609	32.03	505	18,483.08	36.48
Fiction	15.89	2,470	17.02	2,215	17.82	2,125	39,180.40	18.44
General Works	31.86	1,518	34.22	1,305	36.77	1,077	40,418.32	37.53
History	24.07	1,906	29.58	1,947	30.71	1,614	51,321.81	31.80
Home Economics	18.41	554	19.23	472	21.06	431	9,293.85	21.56
Juveniles	10.47	3,157	11.29	3,601	11.84	3,981	48,508.79	12.19
Language	30.24	345	33.26	322	35.06	248	8,549.01	34.47
Law	37.28	953	37.40	810	37.78	586	22,573.16	38.53
Literature	24.63	1,515	28.97	1,442	29.58	1,326	40,457.46	30.52
Medicine	37.34	2,405	38.33	2,052	49.79	1,608	64,130.05	39.88
Music	26.30	216	31.92	211	35.54	233	8,183.53	35.12
Philosophy, Psychology	28.48	1,062	31.48	1,081	32.78	1,074	35,738.44	33.28
Poetry, Drama	22.82	679	24.99	634	27.10	529	14,556.52	27.52
Religion	20.08	1,210	23.09	1,153	26.10	1,002	26,493.39	26.44
Science	40.96	2,186	43.02	2,066	51.86	1,886	68,745.99	43.35
Sociology, Economics	28.89	5,266	31.65	5,249	34.99	4,551	160,329.91	35.23
Sports, Recreation	21.77	582	23.32	515	24.45	450	12,407.11	27.57
Technology	39.88	1,622	41.68	1,500	53.45	1,297	57,401.34	44.26
Travel	23.74	221	24.45	213	24.87	218	5,735.41	26.31
Total	$27.15	32,364	$28.96	31,235	$31.23	27,836	$837,458.18	$30.09

TABLE B

MASS MARKET PAPERBACKS AVERAGE PER-VOLUME PRICES

CATEGORY	1987 PRICES	1988 VOLS.	1988 PRICES	1989 FINAL VOLS.	1989 FINAL $ TOTAL	1989 FINAL PRICES
Agriculture	$ 3.56	3	$ 4.32	... 4	$ 33.80	$ 8.45
Art	12.38	15	10.35	9	106.55	11.83
Biography	5.10	67	6.20	77	496.05	6.44
Business	6.39	11	7.55	20	178.50	8.93
Education	5.99	15	7.19	19	160.05	8.42
Fiction	3.59	1,956	3.97	2,628	9,924.15	3.78
General Works	5.40	54	6.92	64	450.75	7.04
History	4.90	19	6.56	32	203.70	6.37
Home Economics	6.69	73	6.27	48	345.80	7.20
Juveniles	2.80	297	3.18	376	1,197.85	3.19
Language	4.94	11	6.01	14	76.85	5.49
Law	3.98	4	4.59	2	13.90	6.95
Literature	4.50	31	5.44	29	176.85	6.10
Medicine	6.28	34	6.72	29	235.20	8.11
Music	7.45	1	2.95	2	13.45	6.73
Philosophy, Psychology	4.96	89	6.11	108	549.45	5.09
Poetry, Drama	5.05	46	3.29	11	59.80	5.44
Religion	3.71	17	4.76	11	69.60	6.96
Science	4.55	9	5.46	16	159.80	9.99
Sociology, Economics	5.63	63	5.82	59	369.00	6.24
Sports, Recreation	4.97	126	5.87	134	758.10	5.66
Technology	11.52	26	18.16	17	356.15	20.95
Travel	7.15	17	10.95	13	129.35	9.95
Total	$4.00	2,984	$4.55	3,722	$16,063.15	$4.32

TABLE C

TRADE PAPERBACKS AVERAGE PER-VOLUME PRICES

CATEGORY	1977 PRICES	1987 VOLS.	1987 PRICES	1988 VOLS.	1988 PRICES	1989 (PARTIAL) VOLS.	1989 (PARTIAL) $ TOTAL	1989 (PARTIAL) PRICES
Agriculture	$ 5.01	149	$13.22	194	$17.14	151	$ 2,492.82	$16.51
Art	6.27	641	15.46	602	15.65	566	9,670.76	17.09
Biography	4.91	591	11.32	609	11.12	580	6,598.54	11.38
Business	7.09	421	18.56	470	19.43	509	10,888.49	21.38
Education	5.72	412	14.01	451	15.64	440	8,221.26	18.68
Fiction	4.20	897	8.64	1,338	10.07	985	9,591.40	9.74
General Works	6.18	828	28.44	904	23.85	873	23,369.31	26.77
History	5.81	766	14.55	891	13.88	748	11,615.96	15.53
Home Economics	4.77	450	9.96	493	11.61	408	4,951.07	12.13
Juveniles	2.68	906	5.71	959	6.13	913	6,094.88	6.68
Language	7.79	287	14.31	246	15.50	221	3,946.08	17.86
Law	10.66	364	17.46	348	24.73	278	6,675.93	24.01
Literature	5.18	712	13.19	712	13.33	691	10,227.20	14.80
Medicine	7.63	692	19.34	882	19.74	809	18,019.58	22.27
Music	6.36	117	13.67	104	14.54	109	2,018.28	18.52
Philosophy, Psychology	5.57	564	13.36	688	13.72	693	10,290.12	14.85
Poetry, Drama	4.71	596	10.02	551	10.36	495	5,433.60	10.98
Religion	3.68	1,525	9.26	1,527	9.99	1,371	15,121.37	11.03
Science	8.81	707	23.27	736	23.76	707	19,277.90	27.27
Sociology, Economics	6.03	2,597	16.76	2,545	16.69	2,473	50,398.69	20.38
Sports, Recreation	4.87	430	11.49	437	12.26	425	5,697.24	13.41
Technology	7.97	682	25.55	624	23.93	654	18,559.17	28.38
Travel	5.21	299	10.91	429	11.73	432	6,820.40	15.78
Total	$5.93	15,633	$14.86	16,740	$15.01	15,531	$265,975.05	$17.13

TABLE D

THREE CLOTH CATEGORIES—*PW* ANNOUNCEMENT FALL ADS

NOVELS*	AVG.	MED.	BIOGRAPHY**	AVG.	MED.	HISTORY***	AVG.	MED.
1990—136 vols./35 pubs.	$19.84	$19.95	1990—135 vols./62 pubs.	$26.04	$24.95	1990—153 vols./62 pubs.	$28.79	$25.00
1989—187 vols./20 pubs.	$15.88	$18.95	1989—133 vols./61 pubs.	$22.64	$19.95	1989—151 vols./71 pubs.	$28.92	$22.50
1988—209 vols./39 pubs.	$18.48	$18.95	1988—132 vols./55 pubs.	$25.29	$22.50	1988—154 vols./68 pubs.	$27.17	$24.95
1987—198 vols./42 pubs.	$17.90	$16.95	1987—115 vols./64 pubs.	$25.30	$19.95	1987—182 vols./66 pubs.	$27.05	$24.95
1986—305 vols./53 pubs.	$17.13	$16.95	1986—125 vols./53 pubs.	$22.28	$19.95	1986— 73 vols./24 pubs.	$28.99	$24.95
1985—219 vols./49 pubs.	$16.53	$16.95	1985—137 vols./60 pubs.	$22.09	$19.50	1985—179 vols./70 pubs.	$24.25	$25.00
1984—172 vols./42 pubs.	$16.46	$15.95	1984—134 vols./60 pubs.	$21.75	$18.95	1984—149 vols./79 pubs.	$24.77	$22.50

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INDEX TO ADVERTISERS

Abingdon Press 29
Aequus Institute 43
American Booksellers 23
Ave Maria Press 35

Baker Book House CP6
R.R. Bowker 88
Bethany House Publishers CP7
Broadman Publishing 27, CP2
Barbour & Co, Inc. CP8
Brunner/Mazel 93

Central Conference Of American Rabbis 41
Cowley Publications 55
Crossway Books Cvr4

RR Donnelley & Sons . 20–21
Doubleday 95, 96, 97
Dove Books On Tape 69

Fellowship Press 93
First Forest 15
Focus On The Family ... CP1
Forman Publishing 95
Fries Home Video 74

Harmonic Hall 72
Harper Audio 77
Harper Collins 3
Harper Paperbacks 33
Health Communications 4
Holman Publishing S5

Ignatius Press 37

Jewish Publications, Inc. .S12

Lanier Copiers 11

Morehouse Publishing 47

National Televar 8–9
Nav Press 16
Nelson, Thomas Cvr3, S14, S15
Noetic Press 87

One World 45
Oxford University Press .. S9

Paulist Press 31
Publishing Mills 71

Reliance Plastics 73
Riverside Book & Bible ... S2

Sharp Copiers 19
Signature Books 25
Simon & Schuster 75
Spring Arbor Press S17

Trinity Press 39
Tyndale Press S19

Unipub Bernan Assoc. 40

Viking Penguin 6

Walker & Co. 91
Weiser, Samuel 57
Westminster/John Knox ... 58
Word Publishing S13
World Bible Publishers .. CP4

Zondervan ..... Cvr1, 2 p. 1–2

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